



and safety for both Cambodian people and investors. In addition, Cambodia saw a substantial increase of international trade from \$13000 millions USD to \$30,000 millions USD between 2011 to 2014, with the increasing number of tourists of 5,001,712 in 2016, which fueled Cambodia to gain a status of “Lower Middle Income Country” in 2016, as declared by the World Bank. Also, Cambodia managed to reduce poverty rates from 53.2% in 2004 to 11.5% in 2014. Remarkably, Cambodia is projected to be able to maintain its



held in November 2011, and we are in preparation for the second TPR, which will take place in November 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

*Excellencies, ladies and gents, distinguished delegates!*

8- The current obligation for us all, as LDCs, is to do whatever it takes to achieve successful negotiations in the MC11, to be held from 11 to 14 December 2017, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, whose outcomes must serve the interests of all LDCs, including the acceding countries as well. In order for us all to achieve this goal, in spite of its hectic schedules in implementing national reform and development programs and in regional negotiations, Cambodia was pleased to assume the role of WTO LDC Group Coordinator on 20 February 2017. In this capacity, Cambodia will try with its uttermost efforts in coordinating all WTO least-developed and developing country members so as to push forward the negotiations that serve the interests of LDCs, and especially monitor and urge for the implementation of declarations and decisions of the Bali and Nairobi ministerial conferences such as, *inter alia*, Services Waiver, DFQF, Preferential Rules of Origin, Access to Medicines for Public Health, Trade Facilitation, and Aid-for-Trade.

9- As for the watershed of trade in this new stage, we observed that there is a tendency of protectionism practiced by certain developed countries, which results in deadlocks of negotiations in the WTO framework. Seizing this moment, I would like to call on, *Excellencies, ladies and gents*, who represent all the LDCs, to actively engage in completely resolve issues pertaining to local agricultural supports, stockpiling and food security, fishery subsidies, trade and environment, and special and differential treatment for LDCs before the MC11 in Argentina.

10- To fully implement all the obligations under the WTO framework, all the LDCs must advocate against developed countries more financial and technical assistances in both collective and bilateral frameworks.

11- I strongly hope that unity and collective commitments of LDCs will significantly contribute to the success of the MC11 taking place in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

12- In the end, may I wish all of you, the participants in the CRT 05, a comfortable stay, and fruitful outcomes from the intensive meetings in the course of 3 days in Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

13- To relax from the stressful meetings, and understand Khmer arts and culture, I would like to encourage, *Excellencies, ladies and gents, distinguished delegates, national and international guests*, to spend some time to visit the wonderful temples, which are the legacy of our ancestors and, Angkor Wat, in particular, which has been listed as the world's heritage in 1992.

14- Henceforth, may I now declare open the Fifth China Round Table under the WTO framework here in Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

*Thank you!*